

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed it on December 10, 1948, and the language stated that it was declared as a "common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations." Sadly, in the 21st century, when we would hope to be celebrating the foundation of freedom, justice and peace to the world, the world is conflicted. It is conflicted in Iraq, where the different, distinctive ethnic groups of Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds are engaged in violations, respectively, of each of them by the other. And so even in a place of disruption in Iraq, in a war that I oppose, we have concerns that are ignoring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We must call for the protection of human rights in Iraq. We must call for the protection of human rights in Iran.

Today, I had the chance to speak to a young woman in Iran long distance, international conversation to Miriam, a young woman of 22, who had a wonderful vision in front of us for freedom, and the ability to be the best interior designer the world would know. To do that, she must have freedom, justice and peace in the world. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights must apply to Iran.

And as we look to the tragedy in Burma, now some weeks old, to understand that the junta continues to oppress those who suffer from the terrible and horrific tragedy that occurred, that people sit along roadsides trying to find, if you will, the resources that will come to them through the international aid organizations, and their oppressive regime is denying them that right.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PAYNE. I yield the gentlelady an additional 2 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Can you imagine that the human rights and dignity of those who are already brutalized through a horrific tragedy of catastrophic proportions are now denied their human dignity because this oppressive regime in Burma refuses to allow the international aid organizations to go forward?

I hope by our reemphasizing this declaration, that we will stand in abhorrence, in outrage over such undignified treatment. And then I would ask, as we move forward, that we can no longer tolerate the genocide in Sudan, and the completely reckless response of the Sudanese Government in Khartoum to the dignity and human rights of those in Darfur.

We have a litany of those. Those Tibetans who continue to fight every day in Tibet simply to be acknowledged, simply to allow the Dalai Lama to return over religion reasons. And to think that he has to be denied the right to come back over religion reasons, Mr. Speaker. They allow him to come on political reasons, on government affirmation, on saluting the government, but just to be able to engage in his religious, if you will, expla-

nation, he is denied his human rights, the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. We could give a roll call along the way of the travesties of justice.

Might I compliment and announce the change-around in Liberia with President Johnson, who recognized a nation that had literally burned the principles of human dignity and human rights; now, with her stellar leadership, she is restoring the dignity to the Liberian people.

It can be done. It can be done in Sudan. It can be done in Bangladesh. It can be done in Burma. It can be done in North Vietnam. It can be done in places where oppression exists. But I rise today to recount the tragedies of denial of human rights, but also to applaud those who have overcome. And I believe it is our responsibility to not only applaud them, but to encourage them.

I ask my colleagues to support this legislation, and let us do it by words and deeds.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY), the author of this resolution.

MR. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute today to a pre-eminent achievement of 20th century statesmanship, an example of U.S. leadership in the quest for securing fundamental dignity for all human persons.

I would also like to thank Ranking Member ROS-LEHTINEN and her staff, as well as Chairman BERMAN and Mr. PAYNE, my subcommittee chairman, as well for their work in bringing this important resolution before the House.

Mr. Speaker, it was on December 10, 1948 that the memory of a brutal world war, which took over tens of millions of lives, scarred millions of survivors of an unimaginable holocaust, and unleashed the full fury of atomic power on the guilty as well as the innocent, remained vividly etched in the world's collective consciousness that led to this important moment.

In view of this unprecedented devastation, and in the hope of preventing future conflict, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed a Universal Declaration of Human Rights as "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations." And it also recognized that "the inherent dignity and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world."

As the memory of World War II fades and recedes into history, it becomes ever clearer to me that our rapidly changing world appears to be losing sight of the guiding principles that have accompanied the promotion of human dignity, peace and prosperity since the earliest progression of civilization. I also believe we are living in a day when the myriad of distractions of modern life in the United States leave precious little time for philosophical

reflection upon the foundations which have guided this Nation through many turbulent times.

To draw attention to these important principles and the pivotal role of the United States in bringing the Universal Declaration to fruition, I was pleased, along with Mr. DELAHUNT, to introduce this resolution to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. It is my hope that this effort will serve as a vivid reminder of the profound contributions of the United States throughout our short history as a champion of human rights around the world, of the work that is left to be done, and inspire thoughtful reflection on the transcended principles of human dignity.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I do believe that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is extremely important. We have to work to have the United Nations. And we certainly celebrate this 60th anniversary.

I urge support for this resolution. I'd like to thank Mr. BERMAN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN and, of course, Mr. FORTENBERRY for this very timely resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 332, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SANITATION

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 318) supporting the goals and ideals of the International Year of Sanitation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 318

Whereas, in 2000, the United States, along with other world leaders, at the 55th United Nations General Assembly, committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals which provide a framework for countries and international organizations to combat such global social ills as poverty, hunger, and disease;

Whereas one target of the Millennium Development Goals is to halve by 2015 the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, the only target to be codified into United States law in the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-121);

Whereas the lack of access to safe water and sanitation is one of the most pressing environmental public health issues in the world;

Whereas over 1,000,000,000 people live without potable water and an estimated 2,600,000,000 people do not have access to basic sanitation facilities, which includes 980,000,000 children;

Whereas every 20 seconds a child dies as a direct result of a lack of access to basic sanitation facilities;

Whereas only 36 percent of sub-Saharan Africa and 37 percent of South Asia have access to safe drinking water and sanitation, the lowest rates in the world;

Whereas at any one time almost half of the developing world's people are suffering from diseases associated with lack of water, sanitation, and hygiene;

Whereas improved sanitation decreases the incidences of debilitating and deadly maladies such as cholera, intestinal worms, diarrhea, pneumonia, dysentery, and skin infections;

Whereas sanitation is the foundation of health, dignity, and development;

Whereas increased sanitation is fundamental for reaching all of the Millennium Development Goals;

Whereas access to basic sanitation helps economic and social development in countries where poor sanitation is a major cause of lost work and school days because of illness;

Whereas sanitation in schools enables children, particularly girls reaching puberty, to remain in the educational system;

Whereas according to the World Health Organization, every dollar spent on proper sanitation by governments generates an average of \$7 in economic benefit;

Whereas improved disposal of human waste protects the quality of water sources used for drinking, preparation of food, agriculture, and bathing;

Whereas, in 2006, the United Nations, at the 61st Session of the General Assembly, declared 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation to recognize the progress made in achieving the global sanitation target detailed in the Millennium Development Goals, as well as to call upon all Member States, United Nations agencies, regional and international organizations, civil society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to renew their commitment to attaining that target;

Whereas the official launching of the International Year of Sanitation at the United Nations was on November 21, 2007; and

Whereas the thrust of the International Year of Sanitation has three parts, including—

(1) raising awareness of the importance of sanitation and its impact on reaching other Millennium Development Goals;

(2) encouraging governments and their partners to promote and implement policies and actions for meeting the sanitation target; and

(3) mobilizing communities, particularly women's groups, towards changing sanitation and hygiene practices through sanitation health education campaigns: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of the International Year of Sanitation;

(2) recognizes the importance of sanitation on public health, poverty reduction, economic and social development, and the environment; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe the International Year of Sanitation with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to dem-

onstrate the importance of sanitation and hygiene in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and to support developing countries in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal target on basic sanitation among populations at greatest need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

First of all, I'd like to thank my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee, Ranking Member CHRIS SMITH and Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE as well as Representative CHRIS SHAYS for being lead sponsors on H.Con.Res 318, which supports the United Nations Declaration of 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation. Their bipartisan support has helped to bring this resolution to the floor for a vote. I also would like to thank Senator RICHARD DURBIN, who introduced the Senate companion to this concurrent resolution.

In September 2000, the United Nations adopted the eight Millennium Development Goals to challenge the global community to reduce poverty and increase the health and well-being of all peoples. Two years later, in September of 2002, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, the United States and the rest of the international community reaffirmed these goals and added access to basic sanitation as a centerpiece of the poverty eradication commitments. The target to halve the proportion of people without access to the basic sanitation by 2015 was defined in the Johannesburg Plan of Action.

In September of 2005, President Bush addressed the United Nations General Assembly, at which time, as I was the U.S. delegate from the House to the United Nations, I was very pleased that President Bush recommitted the United States to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Last year, the United Nations declared 2008 as the International Year of Sanitation in order to recognize the great strides that have been made towards increasing access to sanitation for people around the world. However, it is also a time to galvanize member nations, U.N. agencies, regional and international organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to renew their commitment.

Access to basic sanitation is something so simple, yet so fundamental to everyday life. Well, simple, at least, for the majority of people who live in the developed world. An estimated 2.6 billion people live in an environment where they do not have access to proper toilet facilities and human waste cannot be properly disposed. And approximately 1.1 billion people have no access to any type of improved drinking sources of water. As a direct consequence, over 1.6 million people die every year from easily preventable diseases attributable to lack of access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Ninety percent of those are children under five, mostly in developing countries.

This lack of access to basic sanitation affects everything from how food is grown and prepared to the ability of girls and young women to attend school. Sanitation is an obvious issue of health, but also one of dignity, physical safety and development.

Halving the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation is a target of the seventh Millennium Development Goal, which is to ensure environmental sustainability. In fact, it is vital to the success of other Millennium Development Goal targets in order for them to reach their goal.

Access to proper sanitation is essential to reducing childhood and maternal mortality. It can help reduce the symptoms associated with HIV and AIDS. It can also improve the living conditions of 100 million-plus people living in slums.

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The dividends that increased access to basic sanitation pay are multifold. Depending on the region of the world, economic benefits have been estimated to range from \$3 to \$34 for each dollar invested in access to basic sanitation and safe water. According to the United Nations, meeting this MDG target will yield nearly \$200 billion in annual benefits. If we meet this goal, people and governments will save more than \$500 million in direct health treatment costs and get back more than 3 billion working days that are now lost to sanitation-related illnesses. Reducing the incidences to sanitation-related diseases will add nearly 200 million days of school attendance.

As we in Congress work to increase access to lifesaving medication and strengthening health care infrastructures, we must remember that the success of such initiatives is, in part, dependent upon individuals having access to basic sanitation. Let us use this time to also refocus our efforts on strengthening one of the basic pillars upon which global health must stand, proper sanitation.

I strongly support this resolution and ask that my colleagues back H. Con. Res. 318, which supports the ideals and goals of the International Year of Sanitation.

I reserve the balance of my time, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 318, authored by my good friend from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Lack of access to clean drinking water and sanitation are indeed some of the most pressing environmental public health issues in the world. Today, an estimated 2.6 billion people, including almost 1 billion children, live without access to basic sanitation facilities. Every 20 seconds, a child dies as a direct result.

In fact, it is estimated that nearly half the developing world suffers from preventable diseases associated with the lack of access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene. Without sufficient access to these services, countries, communities and families become susceptible to and are often defenseless against life-threatening diseases and infections which perpetuate this horrible cycle of poverty.

As this resolution notes, sanitation improves health. It saves lives. It protects the environment. It improves economies. And it contributes to human dignity and social development. It is imperative that the United States and the international community work together to achieve the goals of the Millennium Development Account and significantly reduce the number of people suffering from a lack of sanitation and clean water.

Another pressing issue is one that underscores the potentially grave future that we may face if we don't immediately address rising energy costs and find alternative sources of energy to carry out our daily tasks, some critical tasks such as the energy required to filter our water supply. This resolution also reminds us, however, that necessity is the mother of invention, and that human beings have the potential to achieve any task necessary to improve living conditions.

How does it remind us of this? In Africa, for example, where there are areas that lack consistent and dependable sources of oil to produce electricity, they must develop and rely on alternative methods, sometimes primitive ones, such as fire for boiling water to avoid disease. Again, in the most remote region of the world, we are thinking of alternative sources and alternative methods. We here must also think and seek alternative clean energy. Will we wait until circumstances are so dire that American will be forced to boil their water in their backyards to conserve the little energy available because we failed to develop alternative sources today?

Just as we seek to foster ingenuity in the developing world to provide greater access to clean drinking water and basic sanitation in resource-poor settings, we must foster such ingenuity in our own energy sector.

I thank Chairman PAYNE for introducing this timely resolution which

highlights the important issues of clean water, sanitation and hygiene. And I urge my colleagues to fully support House Concurrent Resolution 318.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. I yield 3 minutes to the gentlelady from Texas, Representative SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I would like to thank the distinguished gentleman and the ranking member of the subcommittee and the chairman and the ranking member of the full committee. I would like to thank Chairman PAYNE in particular for introducing this important resolution. And I am very proud to cosponsor it because it is clearly a life-and-death matter. When you talk about sanitation and the removal of waste and the removal of sewage, you are talking about the lives of children. And as the cochair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, let me acknowledge that the most vulnerable to unsanitary conditions are children. In the disease that spreads, they are, in fact, the victims.

Global sanitation coverage has increased from 49 to 59 percent between 1990 and 2004. And that is, in essence, allowing over 1 billion people throughout the world to gain improved sanitation in the past 14 years. Pregnant women, nursing mothers and, of course, young children are, in fact, the bigger victims.

I am particularly troubled that 90 percent of these deaths that I have mentioned of those who died because of lack of access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation are children under 5, mostly in developing countries. As I mentioned, children are particularly hard hit by poor sanitation, paying a high price through missed schooling, disease, malnutrition and even death. An estimated 1.5 million children die each year due to poor sanitation, hygiene and unsafe water. UNICEF reports that girls are particularly vulnerable, missing out on schooling once they hit puberty, due to the lack of clean and safe latrines.

As the world's only remaining superpower, I think it is important to avert this humanitarian crisis. Chairman PAYNE, I believe that this is an important, constructive way of avoiding this massive death. Simply put, the Millennium Development Goal on basic sanitation would avert 470,000 deaths. And it would continue to do so. According to economic analysis, depending on the region of the world, economic benefits have been estimated to range from \$3 to \$34 for each dollar invested in it.

Let me just indicate that this is common sense. It is, again, human dignity. And as I close, let me also add my support for H. Con. Res. 337 honoring the Seeds of Peace. It is a program that I am very much aware of, having participated with the young people who have come from Israel and Palestine who

have sat down together as teenagers and said we want peace. It was founded by John Wallach. Seeds of Peace initially brought 46 Israeli and Arab youths together. It has spread now to Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, the Balkans, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. These summer camps are enormously important. Again, the Congressional Children's Caucus believes that children are not only our tomorrows, they are our yesterdays and today's.

And I want to thank the chairman of the subcommittee for his leadership in these areas. And with that I ask my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 318 and as well the following bill H. Con. Res. 337. And again, I thank Mr. PAYNE for his leadership.

I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 318, "supporting the goals and ideals of the International Year of Sanitation." I would like to thank my colleague Congressman PAYNE for introducing this important resolution, which I am proud to cosponsor, as well as the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Congressman BERMAN, for his leadership in bringing this resolution to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, In 2007, the United Nations declared 2008 to be the International Year of Sanitation, to raise awareness of the importance of sanitation and its impact on reaching other Millennium Development Goals and to recognize progress made in achieving the global sanitation target detailed in the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, the International Year of Sanitation is intended to call upon all Member States, United Nations agencies, regional and international organizations, civil society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to renew their commitment to attaining the target.

As my colleagues are aware, in September 2000, the United Nations adopted the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that challenged the global community to reduce poverty and increase the health and well-being of all peoples. Two years later, in September 2002, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, the United States and the rest of the international community reaffirmed these goals and added access to basic sanitation as a centerpiece of the poverty eradication commitments. The target to halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015 was defined in the Johannesburg Plan of Action.

We have begun to make important progress. Over one billion people, throughout the world, have gained access to improved sanitation in the past 14 years. Global sanitation coverage has increased from 49 percent to 59 percent between 1990 and 2004. These gains represent substantial improvements in the quality of life and basic health for countless people.

Mr. Speaker, despite the establishment of these goals, billions of people still lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and we are not on target to meet the Millennium Development Goal to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015. Today, over 2.4 billion people—half the developing world—lack access to basic sanitation and 1.1 billion people have no access to any type of improved drinking source of water. As a direct consequence, over 1.6 million people die every year from easily preventable diseases attributable to lack

of access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am particularly troubled that 90 percent of these deaths are children under 5, mostly in developing countries. Children are particularly hard hit by poor sanitation, paying a high price through missed schooling, disease, malnutrition, and even death. An estimated 1.5 million children under five die each year due to poor sanitation, hygiene, and unsafe water.

In addition to claiming too many young lives, poor sanitation reduces children's ability to grow and develop, stunting the economic and social development of the entire nation. UNICEF reports that girls are particularly vulnerable, missing out on schooling once they hit puberty due to the lack of clean and safe latrines.

As the world's only remaining superpower, the United States has a moral obligation to take the lead in averting humanitarian catastrophe. Increased access to sanitation would have an enormous impact on the lives of people throughout the world. Simply put, meeting the Millennium Development Goal on basic sanitation would avert 470,000 deaths. In addition, achieving the target would bring enormous economic gains. Meeting the Millennium Development Goal would result in an extra 320 million productive working days every year, and would bring considerable benefits to investment. According to economic analysis, depending on the region of the world, economic benefits have been estimated to range from \$3 to \$34 for each dollar invested in access to basic sanitation and safe water.

Mr. Speaker, even as our attention is consumed by rising food and fuel prices, it is vital that we do not lose focus of the equally vital goal of basic sanitation. The resolution that we are considering today recognizes the importance of sanitation on public health, poverty reduction, economic and social development, and the environment and encourages all Americans to observe the International Year of Sanitation with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of sanitation, hygiene, and access to safe drinking water in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Mr. Speaker, the benefits of meeting the Millennium Development Goal on basic sanitation would be dramatic and global. We have the opportunity to drastically improve the international community's ability to reduce global poverty, and to improve the health of people worldwide. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health. I hope that he addresses not just this resolution, but the one before us on human rights.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend, the ranking member, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and didn't get here in time to speak on the resolution lauding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is among the most durable, en-

during, inspiring and historic set of fundamental principles ever enunciated by anyone ever in history. It ranks right up there with the Magna Carta. It ranks right up there with the U.S. Bill of Rights, which obviously enumerated a number of our fundamental freedoms that we love and enjoy as Americans.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 60 years after its adoption, continues to serve as a backdrop to judge government policies and behaviors toward its citizens. And that is especially important as to how a government treats the weak, its most vulnerable and those who might otherwise be disenfranchised.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a promissory note. It's a paper promise that must be backed by deeds. It has only, however, been realized in part over the last 60 years. It is a work in progress. The Declaration inspires people to realize that they, as human beings, endowed by God, by our Creator, with certain inalienable rights, ought to fight for those rights. And this gives them a very useful tool in that endeavor, a means to that end.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has emphasized a number of important and hallowed rights, including religious freedom, the right to life, freedom from torture, equal protection, due process, labor rights and freedom of assembly. Under it, no one should ever be left behind. And that means that regardless of race, ethnicity, age, disability, or condition of dependency, no one should be left behind.

We know in many countries of the world, sadly that is not the case. In places like the People's Republic of China, human rights are systematically and pervasively violated by Beijing, whether it be religious freedom or the outrages we recently saw in Tibet, where the government crackdown crushed dissent with an iron fist. China persecutes the Uighurs in the autonomous region and families, especially women as part of their draconian one-child-per-couple policy which has made brothers and sisters illegal throughout China. That's right. Brothers and sisters are illegal in the People's Republic of China. A couple is required to get government permission to have a child. And forced abortion and huge fines are imposed on women and men who do not submit to the plan. In Burma and North Korea, human rights are also violated with grave impunity. And the U.N. Human Rights Council and other bodies of the U.N. need to do more to implement the intent of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Sadly, they have largely failed.

We have seen a very disturbing rise in anti-Semitism throughout Europe, certainly in the Middle East, and even in the United States and Canada. That too has to be combated. We see a rise in modern-day slavery, human trafficking—sex trafficking or labor trafficking. That needs to be combated and eradicated and victims assisted. Everyone should be free of that kind of ter-

rible and despicable mistreatment. The Sudan, Zimbabwe, the genocide occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan is also a grave violation of human rights, completely antithetical to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Like the last, this is a century of victims.

And let me say before the West gets too smug about how well we are doing, we, too, have our problems. We see them every day. We have fallen short of the standard. I respectfully submit to my colleagues that we have failed to treat the defenseless unborn child with compassion and justice. We know now more than we have ever known before about the magnificent world of an unborn child. Ultrasound, 4-D ultrasound, the ability to do intrauterine blood transfusions and microsurgery have shattered the myth that an unborn child is somehow not human or alive. Of course they are. We know that these babies are society's littlest patients, in need of care and love, increasingly surviving at earlier, earlier times if born prematurely.

Abortion needs to be looked at, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, as a serious violation of human rights. Abortion is violence against children. The dismemberment or chemical poisoning of a baby is antithetical to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. All abuse is contrary to the Declaration and that holds true no matter how old you are, and that includes unborn children. We also know abortion hurts women psychologically and physically. And that evidence grows by the day.

So I would hope that we would look at human rights as being for everyone, at all times, regardless of age, condition of dependency, regardless of race, no matter where you live. The universal declaration is for you. We need to speak out more boldly with better, more focused appeals employing all the tools at our disposal, linking sanctions and withholding of certain aid if a country doesn't live up to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Again, the Declaration is a backdrop. And I hope that we do even better than we have in the past. The past has been checkered. Certainly we have moved the ball down the court. Much more needs to be done however to respect everyone's fundamental human rights.

I thank my colleagues.

Mr. PAYNE. I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon, the member of the Budget Committee and one of the leading environmentalists in the House, Mr. BLUMENAUER.

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Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy, as I appreciate his leadership on this, and look forward to watching this legislation pass today.

It was my pleasure to be in Johannesburg in 2002 when sanitation was added to the Millennium Challenge Development Goal to create a comprehensive framework for the needs of the world's poorest. But I am saddened

that we are here today, still repeating those horrible statistics about over 1 billion who lack access to safe drinking water, more than 2 billion who lack access to sanitation.

I would only take exception to my good friend from Florida's comments a moment ago, because I have been told that a child dies needlessly every 15 seconds. But whether it is 20 seconds or 15 seconds, it is absolutely scandalous that in this day and age, when we know what to do, when for less than the price of a take-out pizza per year per family, the United States alone could be transformational on that. One reflects on what difference it would make, not just those children that wouldn't die needlessly. It would translate into over one-quarter billion additional days in school. It would save over \$7 billion in unnecessary medical costs. It would allow one-third of a trillion working days for young people from age 15 to 39 worldwide. And, make no mistake about it, it makes a difference for those of us in the United States.

First of all, pollution any place in the world finds its way into the water supply and makes a difference for us. Make no mistake, that at a time when virtually no one in the world is more than 24 hours away from anybody else watching disease break forth unnecessarily, it is not just a tragedy in some remote village or some southern hemisphere megacity. It can make a difference for the health of Americans here and abroad. And when the CIA has identified urban instability and decay as one of the seven greatest causes of threats to our security, this compounds our problem with global unrest and terrorism.

I am pleased that we have been able to work together with Mr. PAYNE. In my prior tenure on the Foreign Affairs Committee, we passed the Water for the Poor Act in 2005 and acknowledged the late Mr. Lantos and former colleagues Leach, Hyde and Senator Frist. But we are not even fully implementing that legislation 3 years later. I commend the gentleman for his oversight hearing to help the Department of State to understand what is going to be necessary to fully implement this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we are halfway through the International Year of Sanitation. It is time for us to reflect on what we are going to do about this problem. This isn't some remote goal that is beyond our capacity. Girl Scout troops, churches, synagogues and Rotary Clubs know what to do and in fact they are acting at a grassroots level to do something about it. We in Congress need to do our job supporting Mr. PAYNE with the accountability of the State Department.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PAYNE. I yield an additional minute to the gentleman from Oregon.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. One of the most important things we can do is to work

to transfer unnecessary military assistance. The United States is lavishing huge sums of money for military aid on countries like Egypt and Pakistan, where it is dubious in terms of the outcome of security for us or anybody else, but they have populations that are desperately in need of clean water and sanitation. We need to reorder our priorities to be able to achieve this goal.

Back in 2002 when we added sanitation, 2015 seemed like a long way away. Well, we are halfway there, in terms of time, but we are not halfway there in terms of accomplishment. I hope that this resolution will be a little nudge to us all to make sure that we do our part. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy and his leadership.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say that I urge support of this resolution. As the previous speaker indicated, we passed legislation called Water For the Poor, and in our oversight hearing I was looking for places like Burkina Faso in Niger that had no water, but found that the money was allocated to Iraq and Afghanistan. "Water for the Poor" was what it was called, not "Water for the War."

So we need to be sure that when we pass legislation, that it goes to the intended recipients and not for other purposes. If other purposes must be done, put them in another budget. There is plenty of money in other budgets and no one ever opposes them. So put it over there, and leave our Water for the Poor for the countries that are actually and really poor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SERRANO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 318, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING SEEDS OF PEACE

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 337) honoring Seeds of Peace for its 15th anniversary as an organization promoting understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, coexistence, and peace in the Middle East, South Asia, and other regions of conflict.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 337

Whereas Seeds of Peace, founded by the late John Wallach, is a program that brings together young people and educators from regions of conflict to study and learn about coexistence and conflict resolution;

Whereas these young people study and learn primarily at an international conflict resolution summer camp operated by Seeds of Peace in Otisfield, Maine, and also through its regional programs such as the facilitation training course in the Middle East, the homestay programs in South Asia, and international regional conferences;

Whereas the first international conflict resolution camp welcomed Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and Egyptian youths in the summer of 1993, and has since expanded to involve youths from other regions of conflict, including from Greece, Turkey and divided Cyprus, the Balkans, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan;

Whereas Seeds of Peace utilizes the summer camp to initiate dialogue between the youths of the United States and the youths from various conflict regions to dispel hatred and create religious and cultural understanding;

Whereas Seeds of Peace regional programs have trained hundreds of educators to teach peaceful conflict resolutions techniques in their classrooms, positively influencing thousands of students;

Whereas Seeds of Peace works to dispel fear, mistrust, and prejudice, which among others are root causes of violence and conflict, and to build a new generation of leaders who are committed to achieving peace;

Whereas Seeds of Peace reveals the human face of those whom youth may have been taught to hate, by engaging campers in both guided coexistence sessions and ordinary summer camp activities such as living together in cabins, sharing meals, canoeing, swimming, playing sports, and creative exploration through the arts and computers;

Whereas long-term peace between Arabs and Israelis, Indians and Pakistanis, and Afghans and Pakistanis can only be achieved with the emergence of a new generation of leaders who will choose dialogue, friendship, and openness over violence and hatred;

Whereas Seeds of Peace provides year-round opportunities via regional programming and innovative technology to enable former participants to build on the relationships forged at camp, so that the learning processes begun at camp may continue subsequently in the participants' home countries;

Whereas youth graduates of the camp, known as Seeds, currently number over 4,000, with an additional 567 adult delegation leaders also having completed Seeds of Peace training;

Whereas this graduate network receives continued support from Seeds of Peace in promoting professional cooperation;

Whereas Seeds of Peace is strongly supported by participating governments and many world leaders; and

Whereas continued partial Federal funding for Seeds of Peace demonstrates its recognized importance in promoting peaceful resolution of conflicts as a primary goal of United States policy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) reaffirms that youth should be involved in long-term, visionary solutions to violent conflicts;